

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A hair treatment device comprising:

a generator of electromagnetic radiation; [[and]]

optical guide componentry operatively connected to said generator so as to direct electromagnetic radiation from said generator away from entering a skin surface and in a direction substantially parallel to said skin surface, to impinge on hair fibers protruding from the skin surface; and

a control unit operatively connected to said generator for inducing said generator to produce at least two bursts of electromagnetic radiation in combination, one of said bursts having characteristic parameters including a spectral composition, intensity, and pulse duration effective to generate, in hair shafts protruding from said skin surface, heat energy transmissible along the hair shafts to weaken the same below said skin surface, another of said bursts having characteristic parameters including a spectral composition, intensity, and pulse duration effective to sever the hair shafts above said skin surface.

2. (currently amended) The device defined in claim 1, further comprising a control unit operatively connected to said generator for controlling same to produce said electromagnetic radiation in bursts of light pulses, each of said bursts having a predetermined number of pulses of light for treating the hair fibers protruding from said skin surface.

3. (currently amended) The device defined in claim 2 wherein the hair fibers targeted by said optical guide componentry with electromagnetic radiation from said generator protrude from

a measurable area of said skin surface, the pulses of each of said bursts have a total energy [[is]] between approximately 0.1 Joule and approximately 100 Joules of energy per square centimeter of said skin surface.

4. (original) The device defined in claim 3 wherein said pulses of light have a total duration between approximately 1 nanosecond and approximately 3 seconds.

5. (original) The device defined in claim 4 wherein the light of said pulses is incoherent and includes a range of wavelengths between about approximately 200 nm and approximately 1200 nm.

6. (original) The device defined in claim 4 wherein the light of said pulses is incoherent and includes a range of wavelengths longer than about approximately 800 nm.

7. (original) The device defined in claim 1 wherein said generator and said optical guide componentry are mounted to a casing, said casing defining a light application chamber receiving the hair fibers protruding from said skin surface, said casing being provided with shielding to prevent leakage of electromagnetic radiation from said chamber.

8. (original) The device defined in claim 7, further comprising:  
a control unit mounted to said casing and operatively connected to said generator for controlling the operation thereof; and

at least one sensor mounted to said casing for detecting engagement of said casing with said skin surface about said chamber, said sensor being operatively connected to said control unit for informing said control unit as to a state of engagement of said casing with said skin surface, whereby said control unit is enabled to interrupt production of said electromagnetic radiation in the event of possible leakage of radiation from said chamber.

9. (original) The device defined in claim 7 wherein said shielding includes light-absorbing material.

10. (original) The device defined in claim 1 wherein said generator and said optical guide componentry are mounted to a casing, further comprising hair elevation means mounted to said casing for inducing hair on said skin surface to stand away from said skin surface.

11. (original) The device defined in claim 10 wherein said hair elevation means includes a component taken from the group consisting of a suction source; a vibrator mechanism; a magnet and a device for applying a magnetic composition to hair on said skin surface; and a charge generator for investing a flowable composition with an electric charge and a dispenser for applying the charged composition to hair on said skin surface.

12. (original) The device defined in claim 1 wherein said optical guide componentry includes a mirror.

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) ~~The device defined in claim 1~~ A hair treatment device comprising:  
a generator of electromagnetic radiation; and  
optical guide componentry operatively connected to said generator so as to direct  
electromagnetic radiation from said generator away from entering a skin surface and in a  
direction substantially parallel to said skin surface, to impinge on hair fibers protruding from the  
skin surface,

wherein said generator and said optical guide componentry are mounted to a casing,  
further comprising:

a reservoir of dye in said casing; and  
a dispenser mounted to said casing, said dispenser being in communication with said  
reservoir for applying said dye to protruding hair[[s]] shafts along said skin surface prior to an  
application of electromagnetic radiation to the hair[[s]] shafts via said optical guide  
componentry.

17. (currently amended) A hair treatment method comprising:

generating electromagnetic radiation having a predetermined spectral composition and a predetermined intensity in a predetermined number of ~~light~~ pulses each having a predetermined duration, said ~~light~~ pulses having a predetermined total energy; and

directing the generated ~~light~~ pulses from said generator away from entering a skin surface and in a direction substantially parallel to said skin surface, to impinge on hair fibers protruding from the skin surface,

said pulses having, at least in part, characteristic parameters including a spectral composition, intensity, and pulse duration effective to generate, in hair shafts protruding from said skin surface, heat energy transmissible along the hair shafts to weaken the same below said skin surface, to enable breaking of the hair shafts below said skin surface.

18. (original) The method defined in claim 17 wherein the hair fibers protrude from a measurable area of said skin surface, said total energy being between approximately 0.1 Joule and approximately 100 Joules of energy per square centimeter of said skin surface.

19. (original) The method defined in claim 18 wherein said pulses of light have a total duration between approximately 1 nanosecond and approximately 3 seconds.

20. (original) The method defined in claim 19 wherein the light of said pulses is incoherent and includes a range of wavelengths between about approximately 200 nm and approximately 1200 nm.

21. (original) The method defined in claim 19 wherein the light of said pulses is incoherent and includes a range of wavelengths longer than about approximately 800 nm.

22. (original) The method defined in claim 17, further comprising delivering a second form of energy to said hair fibers to cause the same to stand away from said skin surface, the delivering of said second form of energy including an action taken from the group consisting of applying suction to said hair fibers, vibrating said skin surface, magnetizing said hair fibers, and applying an electrostatic charge to said hair fibers.

23. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 17 wherein the directing of the generated ~~light~~ pulses includes reflecting said ~~light~~ pulses from a mirror.

24. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 17 wherein said ~~light~~ pulses include at least two temporally spaced bursts of electromagnetic radiation, one of said bursts having said characteristic parameters including a spectral composition, intensity, and pulse duration effective to generate, in hair shafts protruding from said skin surface, heat energy transmissible along the hair shafts to weaken the same below said skin surface, another of said bursts having characteristic parameters including a spectral composition, intensity, and pulse duration effective to sever the hair shafts above said skin surface.

25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 17 wherein said light pulses have in part characteristic parameters including a spectral composition, intensity, and pulse duration effective to sever the hair shafts above said skin surface.

27. (currently amended) ~~The method defined in claim 17, further comprising A hair treatment method comprising:~~

generating electromagnetic radiation having a predetermined spectral composition and a predetermined intensity in a predetermined number of pulses each having a predetermined duration, said pulses having a predetermined total energy;

directing at least a portion of the electromagnetic radiation of the generated pulses from said generator away from entering a skin surface and in a direction substantially parallel to said skin surface, to impinge on hair fibers protruding from the skin surface; and

applying a dye to the protruding hair fibers along said skin surface prior to the directing of the generated light pulses.

28. (currently amended) ~~The device defined in claim 1 wherein A hair treatment device comprising:~~

a generator of electromagnetic radiation; and  
optical guide componentry operatively connected to said generator so as to direct  
electromagnetic radiation from said generator away from entering a skin surface and in a  
direction substantially parallel to said skin surface, to impinge on hair fibers protruding from the  
skin surface,

said light guide component ~~includes~~ including means for directing electromagnetic radiation from said generator into said skin surface.

29. (previously presented) A hair treatment device comprising:

a hand-holdable casing;

a generator of electromagnetic radiation, said generator being mounted to said casing;

and

at least one optical element mounted to said casing so as to direct a first portion of electromagnetic radiation produced by said generator in a direction substantially parallel to a skin surface, to impinge on hair fibers protruding from the skin surface, and to direct a second portion of the electromagnetic radiation produced by said generator into the skin surface.

30. (currently amended) The device defined in claim [[28]] 29 wherein said optical element includes a partially reflective and partially transmissive mirror.

31. (new) A hair treatment method comprising:

generating electromagnetic radiation;

directing a first portion of the electromagnetic radiation in a direction substantially parallel to a skin surface, to impinge on hair fibers protruding from the skin surface; and  
directing a second portion of the electromagnetic radiation into the skin surface.

32. (new) The method defined in claim 31, further comprising directing the electromagnetic radiation through a partially reflective and partially transmissive mirror to produce said first portion and said second portion.